

SCOTLAND'S STORY

48

**Scotland's vital
Home Front role in
Second World War**

**Labour sweeps to
peacetime victory**

**Church marches
on in the spirit of
togetherness**

**Amazing advances
in people's health**

**Dance fever grips
nation by Carioca
and Turkey Trot**



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ATLANTIC
OCEAN



Orkney



1936

Lean years for fishing industry as its long-term future becomes uncertain.

1938

Country prepares for possibility of war. It comes a year later.



1941

Labour's Tom Johnston is appointed Secretary of State for Scotland.

1942

Pressure on government to create a society worth fighting for, after blitzes on Glasgow and other cities.



1945

V-E Day celebrations in George Square, Glasgow after the Allied war victory.



1947

National Coal Board takes control of Scottish pits.



1946

A year after winning its first seat, the SNP adopts strategy to win Independence through ballot box.



1956

The Church of Scotland reaches its peak while Catholic Church celebrates a century of Restoration.



1950

Prime Minister Clement Attlee is jeered at Dunoon for Labour's failure to deliver Home Rule.



**In Part 49:
Never had it so good?**

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SCOTLAND'S STORY
IRELAND

North
Channel

PART
ENGLAND



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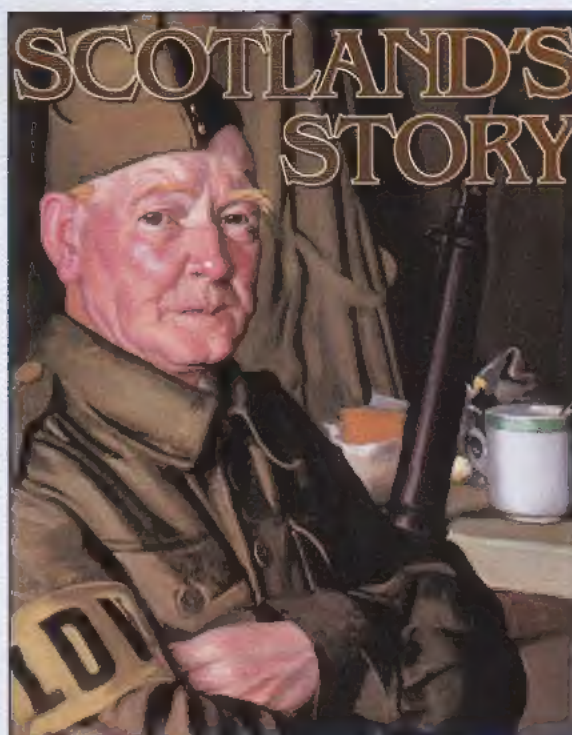
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COMMENT



COVER:
Guarding the home front during The Second World War:
Local Defence Volunteer Walter Rankin painted by Sir William Oliphant Hutchison.

In the shadow of another war

Above the crackle and spit of static on the 'wireless', in the homes of those Scots who could afford one, came Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's doom-laden words:

"I am speaking to you from the Cabinet Room at No 10 Downing Street. This morning the British Ambassador in Berlin handed the German Government an official note stating that, unless we heard from them by 11 o'clock that they were prepared at once to withdraw their troops from Poland, a state of war would exist between us.

"I have to tell you now that no such undertaking has been received and that, consequently, this country is at war with Germany."

It was the evening of Sunday, September 3, 1939.

Twenty years before, most people would have thought it inconceivable that Europe would once again be teetering on the brink of self-destruction.

But the German 'expansionism' which had gathered pace since the mid-30s was now out of control and the time had come for Britain to take a stand.

History must be judicious in its

evaluation of events surrounding the outbreak of this war: the image of Britain spearheading a great moral crusade against Nazism and its twin, Fascism, is not the whole picture.

In 1935, Britain was the first allied power to condone German re-armament, which was a flagrant violation of international agreement. The following year the British government stood idly by as Fascists backed by Mussolini and Hitler brutally crushed Spain's democratically-elected government.

Many believed Britain should have done more at that time to check the advance of right-wing extremism in Europe. When the British hand was eventually forced by the Nazi occupation of Poland, the situation was beyond critical.

Once war was declared, the bravery and determination of ordinary men and women across Scotland and Britain, ultimately helped halt and then reverse the rise of depraved wickedness.

Beneath the shadow of war, Scotland was able to make significant improvements to its domestic infrastructure under its able Secretary of State, Tom Johnston.

Scotland's vital role



■ Hawker Hurricanes prepare for the fray in 1938. Scottish fighter squadrons and their pilots played a heroic role during the Battle of Britain.

Planes landed at Prestwick by the thousand, the Clyde was a convoy hub, Scotland was the Allies' great junction point through which men and machines poured to set up Fortress Britain – then as the launchpad to victory

Time and showbiz has softened and sentimentalised 1939-45, while the trench war of 1914-18 appears stark and tragic. British casualties were at about 350,000 – less than half those of the First World War – but at the end of a conflict of appalling brutality and loss of life.

World-wide, between 35 and 60 million were dead, most of them civilians, and few combatant powers emerge with credit. The Holocaust destroyed Germany's claim to civilisation as well as the European Jews. The British-American 'firestorm' raids on German cities were intended to kill thousands of civilians under the euphemism of 'dehousing workers', and did so. Japanese barbarities in China may have killed or starved over 15 millions.

It was ironic that, on a remote Scottish island, an awkward Englishman should sum the business up, in 1984's vision of "a boot stamping on a

human face", for the Scots thought they had had, by and large, 'a good war'.

Hitler's warfare state was dynamic: it thrived on internal confiscation and external menace. Did Hitler want a 'Grossdeutschland' extending far into Russia, or a core of traditional 'Germanic' lands?

Even he was probably, at root, uncertain. He coasted along on a series of threats against western ministers whose electorates either feared a bloodbath like 1914-18 or wanted to play for time.

Whatever the humiliations involved, Chamberlain's 'peace with honour' in May, 1938, was popular. Its betrayal by Hitler made conflict seem inevitable.

But Chamberlain's failure to come to terms with Russia left Hitler free to strike, and his generals (drawing on Britain's First World War experience) had perfected the tank-and-plane-led

on the Home Front

The first German attack was on the Forth Bridge and repulsed with vigour by Edinburgh's 603 Squadron

'lightning war' which knocked out their enemy's communication centres.

Demonstrated against the Poles, this tactic was employed on the French, Danes and Norwegians in May, 1940, with similar success.

In contrast to the First World War, where the confrontation rapidly became British-German, Hitler claimed to have no real quarrel with the British, even after Dunkirk.

As a racist, he admired the triumph of 'the Aryan' that was the British Empire; and there were groups in London which favoured some sort of negotiated peace.

Against this, the faction under Goering believed that if Britain lost air supremacy, she would be 'switched off' by humiliating terms. Hence the Battle of Britain, directed at eliminating the RAF.

Here Hitler's opponent was the mercurial Scots-Canadian Beaverbrook, now Minister of Aircraft Production, whose works - Rolls Royce, Hillington, was one of the biggest of these - were geared up to make good losses of fighters.

For Beaverbrook and the Moffat-born 'Stuffie' Dowding, chief of Fighter Command - using Watson-Watt's radar to direct their Spitfires and Hurricanes at the bombers - it was 'a damned close-run thing'.

German chances were thrown away by Hitler's personal decision to switch bombing raids from the RAF airfields to the cities.

The air assault gave way to two projects which would overstrain the Nazi war machine: the invasion of Russia and the Battle of the Atlantic.

The U-Boat war wasn't fought, as in the First World War, in the coastal waters south of Ireland, but on the open ocean and Northern seas by



■ Lord Lovat, clan chief and wartime commando leader, briefs his men for action in 1942.

more powerful Brittany-based U-Boats, often raiding in 'wolf-packs' which could take on entire convoys and destroy them.

Losses were huge, and only in 1942 did RAF Coastal Command perfect, through operational research, means of detecting and destroying U-Boats which checked their deadliness.

Russia, supplied from the Clyde, saw a war of movement on a huge scale. Scots squaddies saw a miniature but no less deadly version with the Fifth Army in the North African desert, where an able German commander, Erwin Rommel, recovered Italian setbacks and threatened to sever the vital link of the Suez Canal.

More fatefully, Germany's Far Eastern ally, Japan, already waging a ruthless campaign in China, made devastating use of air-power against surface vessels, along with fanatical troops who could survive on minimal rations.

The defeats it inflicted were ones from which the British Empire never recovered; with Singapore and Mandalay went, too, much of Scots

commercial activity in the Far East.

Like the previous war, this would be a war of production; but Scotland was strategically far more important.

Almost the first German attack was on the Forth Bridge, and the first civilian death in Britain was as late as March, 1940, in a raid on Orkney.

After invasion, some Norwegian forces withdrew to Shetland; and the Polish army arrived to train and

charm the womenfolk.

As American lease-lend aid increased, and she and Russia entered the war, Scotland became the Allies' great junction, where convoys were marshalled and Liberator after Flying Fortress after Liberator touched down at Prestwick, the world's busiest airport.

While the inter-war years had concentrated new industry in the south, near the London market, ►



■ Glasgow's St Andrews Ambulance Corps try out their gasmasks in 1938.

Radio Caledonia formed part of the Goebbel's propaganda machine run by the ex-Blackshirt Donald F Grant

► transatlantic traffic and the bomber threat moved it north again.

Scotland was not spared from direct attack. Raids from occupied Norway on the North-East were frequent, and the destruction of Clydebank on March, 13-14, 1941 – with 1,500 dead – bore comparison with the London blitz and the later carpet-bombing of the German cities.

The exercise was not repeated. Did the Germans favour subverting, rather than terrorising? Until August, 1942, Goebbels ran Radio Caledonia, broadcasting for half-an-hour every evening, run by an ex-Blackshirt called Donald Fraser Grant, originally from Alness.

By 1942, its news about Scotland was very accurate. It seems to have got it via Dublin – and tallied with the discontent among miners and dockers and girls sent south to work which the Home Intelligence service picked up. In 1943 and 1944 Commonwealth and SNP candidates, who broke the electoral truce, did well in by-elections.

But Churchill's Liberalism reasserted itself in Scotland. He kept in mind the Clydesiders – there was an annual teetotal party for Maxton and Co – and unlike Lloyd George



■ 'Somewhere in Scotland' a gun emplacement goes through its drills. Identification of military installations was a major security offence and posters warning of German spies – 'the walls have ears' – were everywhere.

in 1915, he was not out to provoke.

Although most Scots MPs were from his own party, he had little time for them, compared with his openness to his close friend, the Liberal air minister Sir Archie Sinclair, and to Labour's Tom Johnston – journalist, Red Clydesider, imperialist, home-ruler.

When the war began Johnston was already Regional Commissioner for Civil Defence. In February, 1941, Churchill made him Secretary of

State in succession to the only Englishman ever to hold that post, Ernest Brown. Under the guise of discussing post-war problems, Johnston was allowed to consult among Scottish interest groups and, where there was a consensus, take autonomous action.

Attempts to decentralise MPs failed. Johnston's Council of ex-Secretaries of State worked, but largely because of the co-operation of his Tory predecessor, Walter

Elliot. More powerful than these was the fact that, since 1939, Edinburgh had had an effective devolved bureaucracy, in the newly-built St Andrews House.

Claiming threats of 'Sinn Fein'-style subversion, Johnston was able to exert successful pressure to move war production north, to pioneer a public hospital system, and most impressive of all, to solve the problem of power in the Highlands by creating the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board.

These moves didn't overshadow the centralisation which continued throughout the war and the shift towards the welfare state, but they maintained a Scottish dimension.

Which was as well, for the fight-back took the form of gruelling hard slogs. The Battle of the Atlantic, in which 6.5 million tons of shipping, disproportionately Scots-crewed, went to the bottom in 1942 alone; the bombing offensive, which killed 50,000 airmen, many of them highly-qualified technicians; the hard fighting in Italy, following the invasion of Sicily in 1943; and later on a bloody war of attrition in Burma.

Many Scots were among Hamish Henderson's comrades in 'the D-day dodgers' whom Russian-led propaganda assailed as a diversion



■ HMS Hood steams into action but this famous British battleship met a grim end in an attack on the Bismark.



■ Hot war comes to Clydebank in the 1941 blitz to leave a picture of destruction after a night raid.

from the Second Front. Desert fighting, involvement with Italian partisans, and fellow-feeling for their men led to a rich repertoire of humane protest:

*Then fare ye weel ye banks o' Sicily,
Fare ye weel ye valley an' shaw.
There's nae fock will mourn the kyles
o' ye,
Poor bliddy bastards are weary.*

This accompanied a serious radicalism, among such as Henderson, Basil Davidson and Sorley MacLean, making them compare the impact of imperialism and fascism with the Scots experience, both as directors and victims of empire.

At home, Toryism was in eclipse, with many MPs in uniform and their organisation mothballed.

Tom Johnston, the Kirk, with a strong pro-welfare state manifesto 'God's Will for Church and Nation', and various socialist and nationalist groups pressed for action, notably on the Beveridge Report of 1942.

On April 12, 1945, Dr Robert

MacIntyre won the SNP its first seat, in a by-election at Motherwell. Only three weeks later, Hitler was dead in his bunker, and the European war was all but over.

In the July general election Labour shot up from 24 to 40 out of 72 MPs, though it still did less well than in the south. The SNP challenge evaporated. Johnston had an ingenious plan to continue as Secretary of State in the Lords, but Prime Minister Attlee wouldn't wear it.

Despite his inadequate successors, Joe Westwood and Arthur Woodburn, Labour in 1945-51 secured an almost unchallenged dominance of Scots politics.

The shadow remained. The exhilaration at destroying an evil ideology and the personal liberation of travel and discovery was vivid in the writing of Eric Linklater, in the moralities of Neil Gunn and the science fiction of Naomi Mitchison,

as well as the writings of the servicemen.

Realisation of the full horror of Nazism, Stalinism and the atomic bomb, which 1984, and the poetry of Edwin Muir, expressed, would come. But with it came, too, Henderson's decent, compassionate valedictory:

There were our own, there were the others.

Therefore, minding the great word of Glencoe's son, that we should not disfigure ourselves with villainy of hatred;

and seeing that all have gone down like cars into anonymous silence,

I will bear witness for I knew the others.

Seeing that littoral and interior are alike and the birds are drawn again to our welcoming north

Why should I not sing THEM, the dead, the innocent? ●

TIMELINE

1934

Scottish National Party formed.

1938

May: Chamberlain's 'peace with honour' deal struck with Hitler.

1939

September: War is declared between Britain and Germany

1940

March: Luftwaffe raid on Orkney causes first civilian war casualty in Britain.

1941

February: Churchill makes Tom Johnston Secretary of State for Scotland.

1941

December: The US formally enters the War. Scots-stationed personnel bring exotic glamour to local dance halls.

1942

In the Battle of the Atlantic, 6.5 million tons of disproportionately Scots-crewed shipping is sunk.

1945

Germany and Japan are defeated. The SNP wins its first seat in Motherwell by-election.

1946

SNP adopts formal strategy to win Independence by contesting elections

1947

The National Coal Board is established in Scotland.

1948

Covenant movement demanding Home Rule for Scotland attracts at least two million signatures.

1950

Stone of Destiny seized from Westminster by Scottish students.

1953

Naming of new monarch Queen Elizabeth II provokes outrage in Scotland.

Dogfight downs first

■ The wreckage of the plane from which Hitler's right-hand man Rudolf Hess parachuted into Scotland to meet the Duke of Hamilton. Hess broke his ankle and was placed under arrest, but a young Daily Record reporter called Max McAuslane broke the exclusive story to the world.



The talking was over. The country held its breath in dread. Suddenly there was a grandstand view for thousands of the first action of the war – and a Junkers 88 fell from the sky. It was a tiny success, but soon the grim conflict straddled the whole world

Within a few weeks of the outbreak of the Second World War, the people of Scotland were provided with stark evidence that they too would find themselves on the front line. On October 16, 1939, German bombers attempted to attack the Forth railway bridge and Royal Navy base at Rosyth, but they were engaged and shot down by Spitfires of 602 squadron (City of Glasgow) and 603 squadron (City of Edinburgh), RAF. The dogfights over the Firth of Forth were watched by civilians on the ground and the honour of shooting down the first German bomber, a Junkers 88, fell to the 603 commander, Squadron Leader Ernest Stevens.

However, the raids also provided a grim foretaste of the German bombing campaign which was unleashed against Britain's main cities in the following year.

Although the Royal Air Force won the Battle of Britain during the summer of 1940, and thereby prevented German commanders from carrying out their plans to invade Britain, German bombers,



■ A Ministry of Transport poster makes its war message clear.

and later rocket missiles, continued to attack non-military targets throughout the war.

In Scotland, hundreds of civilians were killed on Clydeside during raids on the shipbuilding yards at Glasgow, Greenock and Clydebank in 1941. Scotland's strategic position meant that few parts of the country remained unscathed by the experience of war.

Two days before the bombing

raids on the Forth estuary in October, 1939, another German attack had been more successful when the submarine U-47, commanded by Gunther Prien, slipped through the defences of the Royal Navy's huge base at Scapa Flow in Orkney to sink the battleship HMS Royal Oak.

On a base that was supposed to be impregnable, 786 sailors were killed in the attack.

The country's traditional role as a provider of soldiers for the British Army also meant that there was an early human cost. In June, 1940, when the German army attacked France, the 51st (Highland) Division was forced to surrender at St Valéry-en-Caux in Normandy and several thousand men became prisoners-of-war.

Made up of regular and territorial battalions of the main Highland regiments, the division had been serving with the French forces on the Maginot Line, and during the withdrawal to the English Channel it was cut off by the Germans.

Despite offering fierce resistance its commander, Major-General Fortune, was left with no option but

raider over the Forth

to surrender to avoid further casualties.

Very few families in the Highlands were unaffected by the incident and there was a well-founded suspicion that the division had been sacrificed to take pressure off the main retreat of the British Army towards Dunkirk.

Undeterred, the Scottish regiments raised a second 51st (Highland) Division and it fought with great distinction under General Montgomery in his campaign in North Africa in 1942 and during the fighting in north-west Europe, which finally defeated the Germans.

Its distinctive HD badge became so well known – it was painted on the walls of every captured enemy position – that the division was nicknamed the 'Highland Decorators'.

Although British casualties were lower in this war, partly as a result of the terrible toll of the First World War and partly because there were fewer pitched battles, several Scottish units lost large numbers of men.

In December, 1941, the 2nd Royal Scots, made up of men from Edinburgh and the Lothians, fought a desperate rear-guard action against superior numbers of Japanese during the defence of Hong Kong.

By Christmas Eve two of the battalion's rifle companies numbered less than a score of men and resistance finally came to an end when the garrison was ordered to surrender. Very few of the survivors managed to live through the ordeal of four years in Japanese prisoner-of-war camps.

A similar fate awaited the 2nd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders during the disastrous campaign in Malaya at the beginning of 1942. As the Japanese forces swept through the peninsula the battalion was one of the few in the allied army to offer any resistance but their efforts were to no avail.

Along with other British, Indian and Australian forces the Argylls were forced to withdraw into the island of Singapore where there was no option but to surrender.

In the words of the novelist Eric Linklater: "Now their pipers played their own regiment out of Malaya. The morning sun was already hot when the air was broken by 'A Hundred Pipers' and 'Hielan' Laddie', and the remaining Highlanders – with steady bearing and their heads held high – marched from a lost campaign into a doomed island."

Later in the war, in April, 1944,



■ Early in the war Glasgow had first-hand experience of the horrors of the conflict at sea. Back to the Clyde came the survivors of the liner City of Benares, torpedoed by a U-Boat four days into the Atlantic. The ship was full of children being evacuated abroad. The picture shows a British battleship picking up passengers from a lifeboat.



■ Women's Voluntary Service staff serve war tea in Waverley Station.

the 1st Camerons lost 283 men at Kohima, scene of some of the hardest fighting against the Japanese during the Burma campaign.

By that stage of the war universal conscription meant very few people did not serve their country either in the armed forces or in ancillary services. Their efforts were particularly noticeable in Scotland.

Under a scheme devised by Minister of Labour Ernest Bevin, 21,000 young men were called up to work as coalminers in Scotland's 384 pits and they received their training at Muircockhall in Fife.

Women were also called up to serve in the more remote areas of the country, either in the Timber Corps or as members of the Land Army.

For the civilian population it was also impossible to ignore the global nature of the war. Following the fall of Poland at the beginning of the war thousands of Polish soldiers made their way to Britain and most ended up being based in Fife and Angus where they made a distinctive contribution to local life.

They eventually formed the 1st Polish Armoured Division which served with great distinction under General Macek during the invasion of Normandy in 1944.

However, their story did not have a happy ending. Prevented from returning to their native country by the Yalta Agreement with the Soviet Union many stayed on and settled down in Scotland.

By the time the fighting came to an end in 1945 the war had left a lasting impression on the country and its people. Because modern warfare placed great demands on Scotland's heavy industries, the war effort had produced an artificial boom period for steel, coal and shipbuilding.

It was destined not to last and within four decades these industries had virtually disappeared from the Scottish economic landscape.

There had also been a greater exposure to other people and experiences. German and Italian prisoners-of-war had worked on the land and many US servicemen were based in Scotland.

Together with their own service overseas, the experience of war helped to change attitudes and open horizons for the estimated 1.8 million Scottish men and women who were called up to serve their country between 1941 and 1945. ●

Labour fight back to earn their fling



Margaret Herbison, Labour MP for North Lanark, chats to miners at Baton Colliery, Shotts, before unfurling the National Coal Board flag in 1947.

Churchill's wartime coalition completed its task, with Tom Johnston playing a notable role in Scotland. But the election of 1945 put Labour in control – and they were ready with a list of priorities

At the Election of 1945 the Labour Party won 37 of the Scottish seats, with almost 48 per cent of the vote, their best result since 1929. Despite this apparent success, the leadership were unhappy.

At the Scottish Conference of the party in Musselburgh in 1945 Clement Attlee pointed out: "In the election of December, 1923, which resulted in the first Labour government, Scotland contributed 34 members, London and Middlesex only 28. In 1945, when Labour for the first time gained a majority, Scotland has contributed 37, London and Middlesex 62. It is surely up to you to find out the reason."

In mitigation, the 1945 election

can be seen as part of the recovery from the debacle of 1931 when, despite winning a third of the vote, the party was crushed by the 'National' coalition and took only seven Scottish constituencies, with many important figures, including Tom Johnston, losing their seats.

In the following year, the Independent Labour Party, which provided both the conscience and the muscle of Scottish Labour, disaffiliated under the charismatic leadership of James Maxton.

At the 1935 election, Labour had begun the recovery with 20 seats and 37 per cent of the vote.

The Labour victory at the 1945 election must also be seen in the context of the politics of the Second

World War. As the Germans swept into Belgium and Holland in May of 1940, the Labour Party agreed that they would serve in a coalition government, but reiterated that they could not do so if it was led by Neville Chamberlain.

The resignation of the latter paved the way for Churchill to create a new cabinet with Attlee, the self-effacing Labour leader, as his deputy and Ernest Brown, from the National Liberal Party, as his Secretary of State for Scotland.

The leading Scottish Unionist, Walter Elliot, a successful Secretary of State between 1936 and 1938, was not included in the government as he was considered to be tainted by his support for Appeasement.

Brown's reign at the Scottish



■ Victory parade: the crowds are out in George Square, Glasgow, to see the grinning Scottish soldiers on their VE-Day celebrations in 1945.

► 1945 election. National Insurance, the fund contributed to by the worker, the employer and the government, which was to fund the benefits at the heart of the Welfare State was established in 1946

Housing, a classic Scottish social problem, was subject to the new approach of creating new towns - East Kilbride in 1947, Glenrothes in 1948 and Cumbernauld in 1956

Nationalisation was the most controversial of the three strands of policy (it was the only one which the Conservatives attempted to reverse in the 1950s) but it had a profound effect on the Scottish economy, which relied disproportionately on heavy industries

The Bank of England was nationalised in 1946 and this was followed by the coal industry being taken into state ownership in 1947

Considering the history of industrial relations in this industry and its centrality to the energy output of the country, this was an important symbolic moment as well as an important change

Despite the generous compensation offered to the mine

Nationalisation was easily the hottest of Labour's policies and the only one that Conservatives tried to reverse

owners, this alternation passed off without incident

In this period there was a general confidence that the government would be able to plan the economy

The Barlow Commission on the Distribution of the Industrial Population had reported in 1940 and Hugh Dalton's Distribution of Industry Act of 1945, passed by the Coalition government, were important statements of this confidence, which was tested by the events of 1947

These were the principal achievements in domestic policy of the first Labour government to have a meaningful parliamentary majority. It was notable that they came in the first phase of that administration

Despite having a majority of over 140 in 1945 this was reduced to five at the General Election of February, 1950, and wiped out 18 months later.

It was difficult to sustain the pace of reform and the government was assailed by events beyond its control

The winter of 1946/47 was so

severe that the country was almost brought to a standstill. This was truly a 'bleak midwinter' and tarnished the perception that things would be better under Labour

The weather exposed problems in policy, not least the low level of productivity in the coal industry which resulted in a fuel crisis. In response, the Minister of Fuel and Power, the former Red Clydesider Emmanuel Shinwell, was, in the words of one historian, a 'monument of compacency'

The government's problems were confounded in the summer of 1947 with a balance of payments crisis which necessitated severe cuts in public expenditure, a challenge thought for those who could remember the dark days of 1914

The worst of the problems were over by the end of the year, but the damage had been done, and the government never recovered its aura of invincibility

In Scotland, Tom Johnston had left

office to chair his own creation of 1943, the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board. The Scottish Office was presided over by Lord West of Glasgow, a member of whom was the former Governor of the Bank of England, Lord Quilling, was a member of the House of Commons, and Hector McNeil was a member of the House of Lords.

The efforts of Tom Johnston, the War the nationalist threat seemed to return like an irritating rash. John MacCormick's Scottish Convention promoted a Scottish Covenant (a statement of the desire for Home Rule) which received over two million signatures

Since this, the two main parties, which received over 90 per cent of the vote in 1951 and 1955, ignored the issue. This presaged a short period of Britishness and Unionism seemed to be unchallenged in Scotland

The Conservatives gained over 50 per cent of the Scottish vote in 1955, and Scotland seemed to be sharing in the winds of prosperity which blew away the austerity over which Labour had presided in the late 1940s

Marching together with smaller armies



■ Royal representative: Princess Anne attends the annual General Assembly of the Church of Scotland held on top of the Mound in Edinburgh.

Congregations may be thinner and the 'churchless million' a prime target, yet the voice of the Church remains loud and clear and pioneering work keeps it close to the people. Reform and renewal, however, await in the future

By the end of the 20th century the Scottish Churches were experiencing a decline in numbers and society was

becoming increasingly secular. War

memorials were still visible in many towns and villages, but the Church's role in society was being questioned.

The story of the 20th century, however, was not always one of decline. Protestant Churches experienced a growth in membership after the Second World

War. The membership of the Church of Scotland, for example, grew from 1.5 million in 1945 to 2.5 million in 1965.

By the end of the century, all the Churches were experiencing the same problems. Fewer couples were being married in church, and fewer were having their children baptised. The drop-off rate from Sunday

schools was also a serious problem. The number of those serving themselves for full time service as ministers and priests

Scotland had become far more of a mission field than it had been a hundred years before, and many of those admitted to membership were baptised as adults.

In the early decades of the century, there were also many people who did not have a connection with the Church.

The First World War led to a questioning of religious belief and a re-examination by the Church of its role in society. Church leaders were concerned to reach what they called

The churches remain free and retain an independent voice which at times thunders on major issues of the day

► the 'churchless million' in Scotland

This was a principal motivating factor behind the most important events of the century, the union in 1929 of the two largest Presbyterian bodies, the Church of Scotland and the United Free Church.

One of the tragic effects of the previous divisions in Scottish Presbyterianism was the unnecessary duplication of church buildings and ministers. There was a need to rationalise resources by uniting congregations in some areas.

Ministers would then be freed to work in the new housing areas of the central belt where the Kirk was less well represented. But the policy of local unions has never been popular and the union of the churches at the national level did not fulfil its promise in this respect.

On the other hand, a large amount of money was raised for the work of church extension in the '30s, and then again in the '50s. Many churches and halls were built in the new housing areas where they were sometimes the only public buildings in the community.

One problem has been the Kirk's adherence to the parish as the local unit when personal lifestyles have become so much more varied. Many people now live in one place, work in another, and spend the bulk of their leisure time somewhere else.

There are now, though, far more chaplains serving in different settings, and pioneering work has been carried out in hospitals and prisons as well as in factories, shops and offices.

Other ways have been sought to relate the message of the Church to Scottish society. The Iona Community was founded by George MacLeod in 1938. It sought to equip ministers and church workers to serve in the areas of greatest need. It has been concerned for social justice and peace, and has done much to revitalise the worship of the Kirk.

The Tell Scotland movement in the 1950s sought to reach the unchurched and was linked to the Billy Graham Crusade in 1955. This and later campaigns of mass evangelism, however, did not result in the growth of church membership which some had expected.

Radio and television were also used by the Churches. There can be

little doubt that the most successful communicator was Professor William Barclay of Glasgow. Following upon his success as a journalist and writer, he captured the popular imagination in the 1960s with several series of televised lectures.

With his down-to-earth manner and gravely voice he explained the background and meaning of the New Testament in a readily accessible form.

One positive result of the Presbyterian Union of 1929 was a new basis for the relationship between church and state. The Church of Scotland is no longer 'established'. It is free in spiritual matters but still has a national role which is recognised by the state in various ways.

Such recognition, including the attendance of a Lord High Commissioner at the General Assembly, can give the appearance of establishment, but the Kirk is free to carry out its work in its own sphere.

It is free to change its constitution, laws, doctrine, worship and government, and to unite with other Churches.

The Kirk has also felt itself free to criticise government policies when necessary. The Church and Nation Committee has commented on a wide range of controversial issues.

The tension between the Church and the government was perhaps at its greatest during the Thatcher years. The Assembly issued reports, such as those on housing and poverty, which were very critical of Conservative policies.

The Prime Minister, however, repaid the compliment by giving her famous 'Sermon on the Mount' to the members of the General Assembly in 1988. Mrs Thatcher equated her emphasis on enterprise and self-reliance with the teaching of the New Testament.

With regard to its own structures, it cannot be said that the Kirk has made full use of its freedom to carry out reform. Various committees have been set up, proposals have been made, but so far the General Assembly has been unwilling to embark on a major programme of renewal.

At the last meeting of the Assembly in the 20th century, another commission was set up to



examine this issue. Although its constitution commits the Kirk to seek unity with other Churches, no major union took place after 1929.

Talks have been held involving many of the Protestant Churches and another initiative is still underway. But any proposal that there should be bishops in the Kirk has so far met with resistance.

The most controversial on this issue took place in the late 1950s following the publication of what the press called the 'Bishops Report'. Church leaders were accused of a plot to foist episcopacy on the Kirk as part of a scheme of union with the Church of England.

Since then greater unity has been sought in the Scottish rather than in the British context. Most Churches, including the Roman Catholic Church, are now members of ACTS (Action of Churches Together in Scotland).

But local initiatives have remained thin on the ground, the Livingston Ecumenical Experiment being a notable exception, and the position provides a marked contrast with that

in England where there are many examples of ecumenical parishes.

As the century drew to a close, further division was experienced by two of the smaller Presbyterian Churches. A split occurred in the Free Presbyterian Church in 1989 following the attendance of a prominent elder, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, at a Roman Catholic

Then more recently the Free Church (or 'Wee Frees')

experienced division with

over the views of

Professor Donald Macleod, which

were considered too radical by those

During the 20th century the Roman Catholic population has come 'out of the ghetto' to take a role in the mainstream of public life in Scotland. The provision for Catholic schools in the Education Act of 1918 has done much to assist this process.

This issue has continued to arouse controversy, some seeing denominational schools as perpetuating divisions in society.



■ World leader Pope John Paul II is met by the leader of the Catholic Church in Scotland, Cardinal Gordon Joseph Gray, in 1982.

while the Church has defended them.

While complaints of bigotry can still be heard, composer James MacMillan's speech at the Edinburgh Festival has it that the Church's attitude to Catholics is now very different from that earlier in the century.

In the 1920s the main Protestant Churches were in a campaign against immigration. Excessive sectarianism was in character. One

could be found among the rival football supporters of the Glasgow 'Old Firm' of Rangers and Celtic.

A highlight in the changed relations between the communities was the historic visit to Scotland of Pope John Paul II in 1982. When the Pope was welcomed by the Moderator of the General Assembly, Professor John McIntyre – under the statue of John Knox outside the assembly hall in Edinburgh – there were only a handful of protesters outside.

The visit made a considerable

impact on the Christian community as a whole, and the Churches have sought to respond to the Pope's call to 'walk together'.

While relations are much closer than before, important issues such as inter-communion still remain to be resolved. On the other hand, differences of opinion on moral issues, such as abortion and homosexuality, cross denominational boundaries.

It could be said that the Roman Catholic Church has undergone the greatest changes of any Church as a result of the Second Vatican Council. It was called by Pope John XXIII and met in Rome between 1962 and 1965.

It has led to the Mass being celebrated in English and to greater participation by the laity.

The ministry of the whole people of God was strongly emphasised by the Council. The priority of mobilising all God's people in worship and service is one which has been recognised by other Churches.

One change not made by the Catholic Church is in relation to the ordination of women. The first woman minister in Scotland actually belonged to the small Church of the

Nazarene at the start of the century.

This was followed by the Congregational Churches and the United Free Church in the 1930s, by the Church of Scotland in the 1960s, and by the Episcopal Church more recently.

The Churches have also been facing the issues raised by the nature of Scotland as a multi-cultural society. A way forward may be seen in the question of prayers in the new Scottish Parliament where members of different faiths are involved. It should be noted, too, that the setting up of the Parliament was supported by those Churches which participated in the work of the Scottish Constitutional Convention.

Throughout the 20th century the Scottish Churches have sought to present the distinctive message of the Christian faith and to relate it to the public issues of the day.

On the other hand, the Churches have often been slow to accept changes in their own structures. Society has changed out of all recognition since 1900 and it could be said that, as the Scottish Churches look forward to a new century, the need for renewal and reform is more urgent than ever. ●



■ The parish church at Boat of Garten in the Gothic style was built by the Church of Scotland in 1900 and is dedicated to St Columba.



Take your partners for a trip on the light fantastic

It was tango time, or maybe the Cakewalk, Turkey Trot, Carioca or Charleston – in plush city palaces or tripping over knots in village hall floors. Dance fever had arrived

The enormous popularity of social dancing in the 1900s reflected a new leisure class.

Scots generally had more money to indulge in recreational pursuits. The rapid growth of professional dance academies, often with dance halls attached, also indicated the legitimacy of a pastime that had previously been condemned as 'promiscuous'.

For instance, one Aberdeen Free Church minister, the Rev Alexander Bannatyne, had generated considerable controversy during the 1880s when he spoke out against the 'insidious and destructive influence of waltzing'. Souls, he claimed, were being lost 'in the whirings of the vortex of dissipation', with female virtue particularly vulnerable to the 'irresistible power of temptation'.

While such entrenched moral attitudes died hard, by the early 20th century, the Waltz was thriving in Aberdeen and elsewhere. Moreover, the style and technique of dancing was developing. Influences from overseas, especially the Americas, gave an ever-more exotic flavour to Scottish dance preferences.

For the dance schools especially, fashion and novelty became important as a selling point for prospective patrons. Traditional forms were not displaced, and there continued to be a substantial following for Scottish country dancing, but it was a sign of sophistication to show appreciation of the latest trends.

Although the Edinburgh instructor, D G MacLennan, started



■ Twinkling feet: Fred Astaire and Leslie Carron star in 'Daddy Longlegs' to inspire dance-mad millions.

his career as a Highland dancer, his personal claim to fame was introducing the Foxtrot from New York in 1914.

The Cakewalk, the Boston, the One-Step, the Turkey Trot were further innovations from the United States prior to the First World War.

The popularity of transatlantic partner dances was boosted by the huge success of ragtime music, especially after Irving Berlin's 'Alexander's Ragtime Band' became an international smash hit in 1911.

Whatever the Rev Bannatyne may have thought some 30 years previously, signs of radically changing times were apparent in Aberdeen when the close-clinched, ragtime-inspired Bunny Hug was demonstrated at the Beach Pavilion in 1913.

In the winter of the same year the

sensuous rhythms of the Tango were arousing much public curiosity in Glasgow. The dance had originated in the slums of the Orilla district of Buenos Aires, but became a European sensation when adapted by fashionable Paris and London society.

Les Masques (described as Parisian Tangoists) were among the exhibition dancers at a crowded Tango Tea in Glasgow's Alhambra Theatre during 1913. Further displays, organised by local instructors James D Macnaughton and Jack Diamond, were intended to reassure Scots that the flamboyant dance from Argentina was sufficiently 'decorous and dignified'.

The Tango's immediate popularity north of the Border was an early indication of Scottish affinity with Latin American dancing, which

developed during the inter war period. The Tango, or 'The Dansant', was soon confirmed an attractive afternoon diversion for dedicated dancers, offered by most of the larger dance halls as part of their increasingly varied programme of events.

However, custom designed venues for social dancing were comparatively few in Scotland before the 1920s. Portobello's Marine Gardens, which opened in 1909, was unusual as a substantial seaside leisure complex, with a ballroom that could accommodate over 3,000.

While the appeal of dancing surged during the First World War, the times were not conducive for building dance halls, and for a while the Portobello ballroom was even requisitioned for military purposes.

On the other hand, the war



■ Slow, slow, quick-quick, slow: the slippery has been sprinkled, the band strikes up and the dancers glide across the Locarno's floor.

► encouraged fundamental changes in dancing style. The relaxed, informal Foxtrot helped to ease the anxieties of many young people caught up in the conflict. The vogue for American dancing intensified, partly to compensate for public repudiation of the Waltz and its discredited German connections.

Scottish dance bands absorbed innovative jazz influences, often brought over by American service personnel after the United States entered the war in 1917. The coming of the Jazz Age did much to fuel dancing fever, which was stimulated by the less inhibited social climate in the wake of the war.

The phenomenon of the 'Palais ballrooms' characterised Scotland throughout the 1920s, as popular demand dictated the need for more spacious and elaborate dance venues.

During the decade Glasgow acquired 11 first-rank dance halls, while Edinburgh had five. Dundee and Aberdeen each boasted a Palais de Danse, with keen competition in the latter city when the rival Beach Ballroom opened in 1929.

Features common to the Palais included luxurious interiors, spectacular lighting effects and state-of-the-art sprung floors (Glasgow's

'Even at the cheapest jiggings the atmosphere is highly critical, technical skill greatly admired'

Locarno, opened in 1926, advertised a handsome oak floor which offered patrons 'that smooth and delicate touch essential to dancing enjoyment'.

There were generally two professional house bands in the Palais, which rotated over the six days that dance sessions were available. Superior ballrooms often had a formal dress code, to maintain standards and instil a sense of glamour.

Indeed, concern about the moral welfare of Scotland's youth was evident in the strict controls over dance halls. Aberdeen Corporation's regulations for the Beach Ballroom in 1929 included the proviso that 'the dancing entertainment shall be free from vulgarity'. Sunday dancing was not permitted by the Scottish licensing authorities and the consumption of alcohol was at all times prohibited.

The Palais ballrooms represented the epitome of style, but they were expensive, and numerous less

pretentious venues provided suitable outlets for dancing in Scotland. However, quality still mattered. As was pointed out in the Glasgow novel, *No Mean City*, set in the 1920s, "Even at the cheapest

jiggings' the atmosphere is highly critical and technical skill greatly admired".

Two of the more convincing characters in this lurid tale of Gorbals slum life were Bobbie Hurley and Lily McKay, whose single-minded ambition was to quit their corrosive surroundings by becoming professional ballroom dancers.

Real life role models for the Scots



■ Favourite Sauchiehall Street destination – the Locarno Ballroom.

were the hugely successful London based couple, Santos Casani and Jose Lennard, who regularly came north of the Border to demonstrate new high-energy dances such as the Flak Charleston and Black Bottom.

Emulation encouraged the competitive dancing in the city, which was zealously encouraged by instructors and dance hall proprietors. That dancing had become a lucrative business was demonstrated when the Playhouse Ballroom

This mammoth Glasgow enterprise, decorated in opulent French Empire style, could accommodate 6,000 dancers. Green's Playhouse also incorporated one of the biggest cinemas in Europe, and the contemporary obsession with moving pictures had an inevitable impact on trends.

Rudolph Valentino, the screen idol, was an accomplished Tangoist, whose smooth image of the

The first Fred Astaire Rogers film, 'Flying Down to Earth' (1933), included a Cuban-inspired dance which soon became a favourite in Scottish ballrooms.

Latin influences were a feature of the 1930s, after Cuban band leader Don Azpiaz took New York by storm and unleashed a world craze for Rumbas, Congas and Boleros.

The 1930s were generally the great time for big bands, the new radio helped, and music across Scotland. The success of Glasgow's ballrooms was largely due to the flair and



■ The Daily Record's Scottish Open Dancing Championship at Glasgow's Locarno goes into full swing.

versatility of her resident band, the Gaybirds.

However, visiting English dance bands also brought in the crowds. The legendary Joe Loss first came to Scotland in 1936, and thereafter returned annually as the star attraction at the grand Hogmanay dance in Green's Playhouse Ballroom.

From September, 1939, the war effort entailed extraordinary commitment and the lives of Scots could be fraught frequently with danger.

As in the 1914-18 conflict, young people flocked to the dance halls as a momentary release from the

pressures of war. The authorities were keen to encourage such morale boosting activities, despite unease about the unpredictable passion associated with wartime romances.

There was exotic glamour attached to the servicemen and women from overseas, especially the flamboyant and worldly GIs who passed through Scotland after the United States entered the war in 1941. The Americans were often exciting dancers, inspired by the rhythmic, brassy sounds of swing music heroes such as Benny Goodman, the Dorsey brothers and Artie Shaw.

African American dance influences were apparent in the dynamic and athletic Lindy Hop and Jitterbug, which offered a foretaste of the fast paced jiving of the 1950s. Not all Scots were attracted to these frenetic new dances, preferring old staples like the Tango and Foxtrot, but there can be no doubt that the popularity of social dancing reached unprecedented levels during the war, with at least 80 venues available in Glasgow alone.

Dancing retained its appeal in the period of post-war austerity immediately after 1945. The dance halls offered a glittering alternative to the blighted environment and confined tenement surroundings of many urban dwellers.

Dancing also continued to be socially important for nurturing

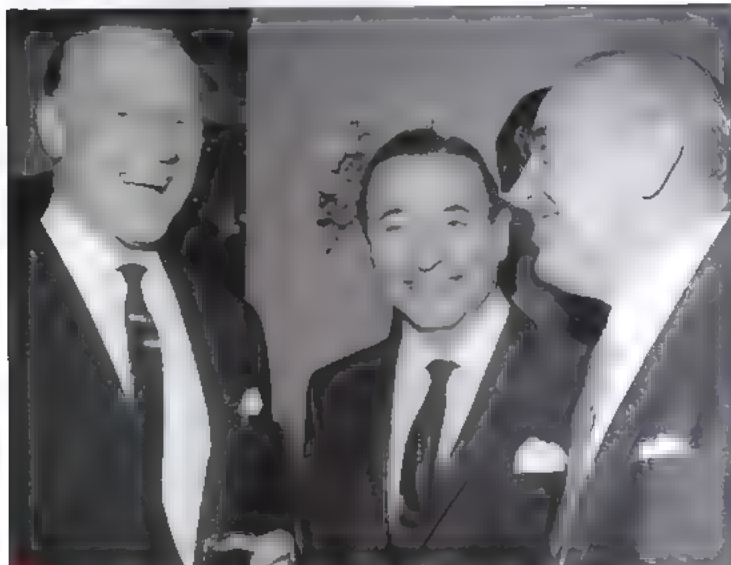
romantic relationships, with countless Scots encountering their soul-mate for the first time on the dance floor. Business still seemed to be booming by 1955, when an appraisal was made by one newspaper of 'dancing gait Scotland'.

Focusing on the predilections of Glaswegians, it was pointed out that the city had more dance halls per head of population than London. However, the reporter tellingly commented on future trends, suggesting that 'as housing improves and the younger generation grows further away from the single ends' the allure of the dance halls might diminish.

Alternative forms of entertainment, notably television, were also contriving to keep Scots at home. Moreover, new cultural preferences were significant in reorientating dance trends. Strict tempo dancing gave way to freer forms in the uninhibited era of rock and roll and beat music.

The Palais ballrooms, designed for a different generation, seemed suddenly to be detached from modernity.

The rise of the discotheque from the 1960s symbolically ended a spectacular era in Scottish social history, although dancing certainly did not die as a popular pastime, with an increasingly diverse range of choices for aficionados as the century progressed. ■



■ The Big Band leaders: Victor Sylvester, Joe Loss and Ted Heath in 1965.

SNP begin to stir

Home Rule was like love and peace - everyone wanted it, but bread and butter issues always dominated the vote. The Nationalists' early divisions over strategy and policy only weakened their credibility, but by 1946 their act was coming together...

The First World War unleashed unstoppable forces which radically transformed the political, social, economic and cultural landscape of modern Scotland. It was with nostalgia that contemporaries looked back to those days before the war where everything seemed to have a place and everyone had a role.

Although this was a rose-tinted view of the past, the fact remained that Scotland was now a different place. The Liberal Party was in decline and politics were harrowing into a two-party system based on class loyalty between Labour and the Tories.

The economy, which had been the 'workshop of empire', was exposed as over dependent on too few customers and too few goods. In addition to the long standing social problems of poor housing, poverty and bad health, a new one was added - long-term mass unemployment.

Some 100,000 men were reckoned to be permanently 'surplus to requirements' in inter-war Scotland. Between 100,000 and



■ Prime Minister Clement Attlee faces a gauntlet of Nationalist jeers at Dunoon Pier in 1930.

130,000 thousand young men had been killed - with a similar number seriously wounded. Of the many more who returned from the killing fields of France with their bodies intact, their minds had been scarred by horrors only the most twisted and perverse could have imagined.

The war had shattered the expectation that things would improve in the economy post-war. The belief that things could not get any worse was shattered in 1929 with the impact of the Great Depression when, already reeling from the dislocation caused by the

war, the economy nose-dived with thousands thrown out of work.

By 1932 some 400,000 or 26 per cent of the insured workforce were out of a job. In 1933, the Record in its editorial, 'The question of the day'...

...the backdrop of the first stirrings of the modern nationalist movement were heard. Home Rule had been a factor in Scottish politics from the 1880s and Labour, which emerged as the largest political party in Scotland at the general election in 1922, was

...enthusiastic proponent of something which excites the people more than home rule."

Maxton told a journalist the Clydeside MPs embarked on their journey to Westminster in 1922.

As the enormities of the social and economic problems began to sink in, however, Labour's confidence that a Scottish parliament could solve them began to wane.

By 1927, there existed a consensus in Labour circles that only the full powers of the British state could tackle the entrenched problems of the Scottish economy and that being the case, there was little point in having a parliament in Edinburgh. Home Rule disappeared from the political agenda.

It was in response to this apparent betrayal of the Home Rule cause that

in the wilderness

the National Party of Scotland (NPS) was formed in 1928. It was an amalgam of the National Rule Association, the Scots National League, The Scottish National Movement and the Glasgow University Scottish Nationalist Association.

Its membership was made up of differing opinions. Some were moderate devolutionists, others were pro-independence. Some believed in constitutional means and others argued that the organization should put pressure on existing political parties. Given such disparate views, it should come as no surprise to find that the NPS had a short turbulent history which was riven by faction fighting.

Furthermore, the fact that the party failed to make a good showing at any-by-elections or the 1929 general election – the party was never able to field more than a handful of candidates – the tensions built up with moderates accusing the fundamentalists of a lack of support, within the party, for the former of independence principles.

To add to NPS problems there appeared an avowedly devolutionist nationalist organization, the Scottish Party (SP), which was made up from disaffected Tories, mainly from the Catholic constituency and a smattering of Liberals.

Moderates in the NPS fearing that the SP would steal support began a purge of fundamentalists and opened up negotiations which would lead to a merger in 1934 to form the Scottish National Party (SNP).

In spite of divisions which showed considerable support for home rule, the SNP was never able to galvanize itself into a credible political party.

Divisions over strategy (should the party attain its objectives by securing an electoral mandate or work with others as a umbrella pressure group for home rule) and objections

devolution or independence, the final decision was left in an open-ended state.

Members were able to join other political parties and were free to pursue whatever strategy they desired without interference from the leadership. The hopelessly divided nature of the SNP meant that it was not attractive to voters. Furthermore, the two dominant social themes of the 1930s, the problems of the economy and mounting international tensions, were areas where the nationalists were especially weak and could offer voters nothing more than hollow platitudes.

Yet, in spite of the weakness of the nationalists as a political movement, politicians were still concerned and believed that it had the potential to emerge as a major force. After all, the economic conditions which were acknowledged as giving rise to the movement had not been solved and nationalism had emerged as a major force on the European mainland.

Throughout the 1930s there was a constant barrage of complaints that Scotland was not being treated fairly and it was in response to this mood of 'national unease' that the decision was taken by the National Government in 1935 to investigate the way the nation was governed.

Reporting in 1937, the Gilmour Committee recommended that the administration of Scotland should be reorganized and that it be moved from Dover House in London to Edinburgh. Unionist politicians were eager to appease Scottish national sentiment and believed that this could be done through administrative devolution.

By locating the government in Scotland, it would act as a focus of national identity and it would mean that decisions were taken nearer the people.

Administrative devolution also had the advantage in that it appeared to bring government closer to the people but did not concede



■ Dr Robert McIntyre was the SNP's first elected member in 1945.

any power. Indeed, Labour began to promote Home Rule in the late thirties because it was recognized that the effect of the administrative shake up was simply to concentrate more power in the hands of the Scottish Secretary of State who was described as the Government's dictator in Scotland.

Throughout the 1930s, politicians wrung their hands and claimed that there was nothing that could be done to solve Scottish economic problems. Things would only get better, it was claimed, when the markets picked up and that government intervention meantime would not help.

The coming of war in 1939, however, exposed such claims as bogus. The demands of total war meant that the state took control of everything. There was full

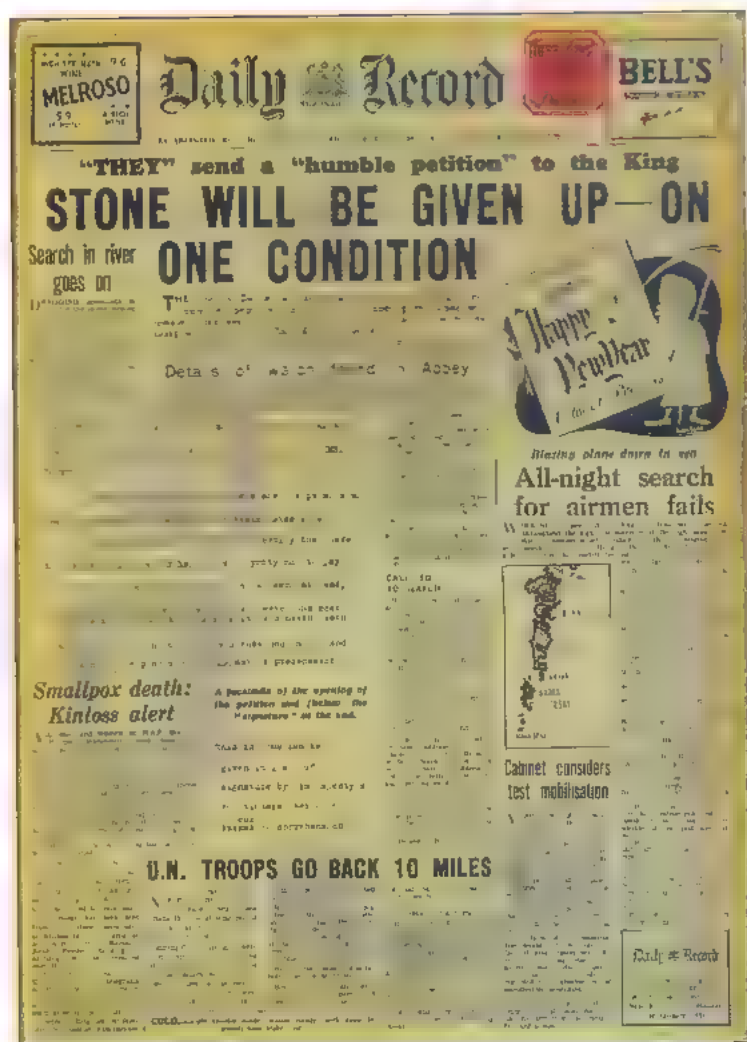
employment, emergency health and welfare provision and rationing to ensure that everyone got their just share.

The fact that the state could achieve such feats in wartime meant that many believed it ought to achieve them in peacetime and in 1942 the Beveridge Report was published which set out the blueprint for the Welfare State and full employment after the war. Needless to say, it was especially popular in Scotland because there was a lot for the state to do.

As many politicians were quick to realise, state planning and the corporate economy could tackle the problems that had plagued inter-war Scotland. Britain could be made to work in Scotland's interests.

At the same time as the British state was making its presence felt

The response to 'national unease' over how the country was being governed brought more power of decision nearer home in Edinburgh



■ Front page splash: how the Daily Record covered the big story.

As war reached its crisis the blueprint for the welfare state was debated at home

► north of the Border, Scottish nationalism appeared to be on the move again. The party, after doing well in the Argyll by-election of 1940, when it was the only opposition to the government because of the wartime political truce, stumbled from one disaster to another.

It had originally approved of an anti-conscription policy, only to retract it when the war broke out, but then found it could not control dissidents who went ahead with it anyway. Nationalists were smeared with the brush of disloyalty. Further interventions in by-elections went from bad to worse and in 1942 the party split as the fundamentalists took control.

The leader of the moderates, John MacCormack, went off to lead the

Scottish Covenant movement. Under the leadership of Douglas Young, an anti-conscriptionist who was jailed, and Robert McIntyre, the SNP began to put its house in order.

The party would secure independence by contesting elections to secure an electoral mandate from the Scottish people. This was enshrined as party policy in 1946 and has been the bedrock of SNP policy ever since.

The nationalists were able to make some headway during the war. The party picked up a range of government honours. The SNP was represented in the House of Commons by McIntyre, who was elected the first SNP MP in April, 1945, at Motherwell, although he lost the seat at the general election a month later.

Labour gave a pledge on its Scottish election manifesto in 1945 which stated that after the defeat of Japan, Home Rule was its most



■ Seizers of the Stone: Gavin Vernon, Kay Matheson and Ian Hamilton spirited the Stone of Destiny from Westminster Abbey in 1950. The coat Kay Matheson is wearing was used to cover it from view.

important priority. It turned out to be a hollow pledge. As was mentioned earlier, the fact that the full resources of the British state could now be turned to solving Scotland's social and economic problems meant that it made good sense for Scots to be British. A Scottish parliament, it was claimed, would simply get in the way of things and hinder the transfer of resources north.

After the hungry 30s, Scots voted for social and economic well-being. Home Rule sentiment was still about, however, and MacCormack's Covenant movement was able to collect about two million signatures in favour of a Scottish parliament between 1948 and 1949.

At the end of the day it collapsed when the Labour government called the Covenant's bluff and told MacCormack that it would only take the issue seriously if the movement was backed up by an electoral mandate. Home Rule was like peace, everybody agreed, but without bread and butter.

Driven into the political underground, the SNP would remain in stasis until fertilised by economic discontent in the mid 1960s when it blossomed into a major force.

The Stone of Destiny seized and QEI post boxes bombed

On Christmas Day, 1950, the Coronation Stone of the Kings of Scotland – the Stone of Destiny – was seized from Westminster Abbey by four young Scottish nationalist students.

Supporters of ex-SNP Home Ruler John MacCormack, their dramatic publicity stunt culminated with the Stone resurfacing again in Arbroath Cathedral, draped in the Scottish Saltire. It was then taken back to resume its 700 year exile in Westminster.

Three years later, Churchill's decision to style the new monarch Elizabeth II, ignoring the fact that she was the first by that title in Scotland, provoked widespread outrage.

Feelings ran so high among some militant nationalists, they took to blowing-up post-boxes which carried the QEI symbol.

Rough seas for the Scottish fisherman



■ The old ways. The saltfish artificial drying shed of Williamson and Co at the Esplanade Curing Works, Aberdeen, at the turn of the last century.

Dwindling figures tell their own boom to gloom story and even the new fish farming has its problems. A way of life is changing...

That is the land out there and 19th century Scotland is overshadowed by it, by the clearances, by the exodus of the muckle farmers (and their nauty and scientific methods), the drift from the land to the towns. Edwin Muir's 'The Fish' is a 'fall' from his idyllic life in Orkney to the hell of the Scottish mainland and was also coasting on the products of the latter half of the country through the Middle Ages, when transport and preservation made meat-eating difficult if not

downright dangerous. In the 18th century, Robert Fergusson on 'his' Forth shows how impressive the results were:

*In her the skare and eadlin son,
The eel, for scuple, wags her tail
The herring, sleek an mackerel
An whiten dunn,
Their spindie shanks the libbers train
The partans pence*

Scotland had always been greatly dependent on the great, innumerable riches of its fisheries. Grants of fishing rights go back to the 13th century – and these were an early source of international commerce. To supply Catholic

Europe with Friday food, and Protestant Europe (and eventually West Indian slaves) with something to spice up the monotony of bread and later potatoes, German, Flemish and Dutch fishermen and traders established themselves after 1500 along Scotland's East coast as far north as Shetland.

They bought salted herring from local fishermen as well as fishing themselves, and shipping their 'matjes' back in their bluff-bowed 'busses'.

Otherwise, in the early days, Scots fished with shellfish-baited line for haddock or dredged for shellfish, or ►



■ Fishergirls of Aberdeen: herring had to be gutted then packed and this was the scene in the 1900s.

► netted salmon in the estuaries of Tweed, Tay, Don and Spey. So productive was the last that in the 17th century it was reckoned as a third of the catch.

The other long range trade was whaling, in an age when blubber was the raw material for oil, and so for lighting – the alternative being stinking tallow (animal fat). Dundee and Peterhead were the main onshore depots, with many of the whaler crews coming from Orkney.

The greatest of all whaling epics and, some would say, of all novels about the sea – 'Moby Dick' (1852)

was written by an American of Scots descent, Herman Melville.

It was on the basis of whale oil, which was used to soften its fibres for machine spinning, that Dundee developed its jute industry in the middle of the 19th century.

Fishing also played a key role in the dramatic social re-engineering of the Highlands. In the 17th and 18th centuries speculators had attempted to set up fishing stations, and the Duke of Portland and Marquess of Sutherland saw fisheries as the means of adapting such claimants as remained to the disciplines of capitalist society.

'Draining to your coastline' was to be the first stage of commerce achieved through fishing, with

harbour construction undertaken by landlords and the government, and after 1749 bounties paid on herring catches.

In 1809 the Commission for the British White Herring Fishery was set up to build harbours and aid

revolution, which dynamised the white fish trade.

In Lancashire in the 1870s the deep-frying boiler came into use and fish-and-chips was born. At almost the same time the compound steam engine appeared, small enough to fit



■ A fishing boat begins to take shape at Cellardyke, Fife, in 1936.

transport, starting in 1813. Production then and 1887 barrels of cured fish rose from 111,000 to 1,282,000 tons, worth £3 million. Ninety per cent was for export. By 1900 reports calculated that three out of four families in the crofting counties lived to some degree off the sea.

But in the mid 19th century there was a quite distinct technological

revolution, which dynamised the white fish trade.

In Lancashire in the 1870s the deep-frying boiler came into use and fish-and-chips was born. At almost the same time the compound steam engine appeared, small enough to fit

The specialty of 'the world's

Dundee earned its reputation as Jute King from the whale blubber that was turned into oil to soften the tough fibres.

remained herring, its nets shot by the Fifties, which moved in search of the regular, predictable shoals.

The fishery would then move to the Outer Hebrides in the 1950s, to the northern isles, to the Moray Firth and then to the Dogger Banks before ending off the East Anglian ports of Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

The fisher lasses would follow the herring fleet round this circuit by train and ship, expertly gutting, salting and barreling the catch.

Jean Bochel of Nairn remembered: "We gutted and packed three barrels in an hour, about seven or eight hundred when we gutted them first, but by the time they were filled up there were about a thousand herring in the barrel then."

And Annie Sellings put it down to love: "It was all done for the love of our men-folk. If we hadn't worked, they couldn't have sold their fish."

At the end of the trail was marriage, with lots of furniture, crockery and clocks bought on the trip, and life in one of the brightly painted houses of Luncarty, Buckie which lay gable to the sea.

There were 15,000 Scottish fishermen in 1914, generating a further 100,000 onshore jobs. Fishery was also a building block of Scottish government, with the cruisers of the Home Department giving the devolved administration what looked like a miniature navy.

In August, 1914, the good times ended, along with the trade to Hamburg, Lubeck, Königsberg and Libau. The Germans closed the Baltic and this meant the end of the huge trade to Poland and Russia, sailing boats were laid up; hundreds of steam drifters and trawlers went into Admiralty service as tenders,



■ This hand-painted postcard from an original drawing entitled *Herring Boats of the Bass, North Berwick*, was posted in 1905.

patrol boats and minesweepers. Many were sunk

At the end of the war, the herring trade in the Kremlin, which didn't come back after the war, made to revive it. The poet George Bruce remembered the herring fish-merchant families who understood and explained the world with the Communist revolution remained beyond the war.

By 1930 the catch of herring was down by over a third. The sea was as deep in the depression as Motherwell or Wigan.

It might have been worse but the diesel engine, which enabled sailing boats to be converted into Handling Danish seine nets, a prosperous inshore fishery carried on. It provided 15 per cent of the Scottish catch, compared with only one per cent of the English.

The old drifters, with their tall, salt-caked funnels, were still the rule

in the herring trade up to the First World War. They were the stars of John Grierson's first and last film as director of *'Drifters'* (1929), in which he and his film crew ventured out on a North Sea vessel, failed to sight, let alone catch, anything, and were reduced to throwing another boat's very dead catch into their nets to feed the cameras.

World War II brought more Admiralty takeovers, more minesweeping, more sinkings.

Post-war, the herring trade declined further, but since the long-distance catch of white fish plummeted after the 'cod wars' of the early 1970s, Scotland now became predominant within the British Isles.

Extended coastal limits gave new life to the inshore fishery and East European industrial fishing with its huge Klondyker factory ships took a huge bite of its catch, but at the

The farmed fish are reared at battery intensity. Their faecal waste does nasty things to the sea bed

expense of overall stocks

In 1972 there were 2,500 vessels, 9,000 fishermen and 20,000 dependent on the industry, though some trawlers found new and lucrative opportunities as safety boats in the North Sea oilfields, and aboard the rig supply vessels.

By 1998 the fleet was down to 1,000 boats and 7,700 workers on and off-shore, but they were bringing in £413 million in landings.

The Fisheries Protection Agency disposed of four cruisers, two planes and nearly 300 sailors.

Parallel to this came the remarkable upswing in a quite new technology: fish-farming. Around £1 million was made from salmon in 1950, by 1998 farmed salmon was an industry employing 6,300 at 340 sites in the Highlands and Islands, with an output of 90,000 tons worth £275 million a year.

Other expensive breeds like turbot were being farmed, and shellfish and nephrops – crustaceans like lobster and crayfish – were a major growth stock.

The problem here, however, was that as the *Financial Times* wrote: "The fish are reared at battery intensity. They produce a mass of faecal waste which does nasty things to the sea bed."

Meanwhile exposure to disease,

notably Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) and the ravages of the salmon louse, brought considerable health and environmental risks.

The salmon, with its uncanny ability to navigate back to its home river, had been Neil Gunn's symbol of wisdom in Highland River (1936). Now it seemed as humble and problematic as a broiler hen.

The fisherman, too, his life balanced between risk of cash and life and a harsh Brethren religion had an uncanny quality, as George Bruce recorded:

*He carries out from within something of the dark
Concealed by heavy curtain,
Or held within the ship under hatches
Yet with what assurance
The compact body moves
Head pressed to wind,
His being at an angle
As if to anticipate the lurch of earth
But these risks and stresses*

are daily demonstrated by the Saturn off Peterhead and the Solway Harvester off the Isle of Man – now accounted for one of Scotland's strangest and saddest facts: the most heroin-ridden community wasn't Drumchapel – but fish-rich Fraserburgh. ●



■ Fishing outlook uncertain at Fraserburgh Harbour in 1950.

Health is the victor in

The strides taken in medical care over a century are almost miraculous. Many diseases have been defeated or well shackled. Scots have been on the front line

By the beginning of the 20th century the health of the people of Scotland had been badly damaged. Scotland had become a world leader in shipbuilding, steel production and engineering, all supported by efficient coal mining. But it had all been achieved at great cost to the mass of the people.

They lived in some of the worst housing in Europe, almost half the families in the cities lived in single rooms. Wages were low by British standards and affordable food had to be cheap. Smoke shut out the sunlight and there was little opportunity for exercise and rest.

Six out of a thousand pregnancies ended with the death of the mother and one-in-10 infants died in the first year of life. Large numbers of children of school age died of diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles or whooping cough and many were crippled for life by rickets caused by the lack of sunlight and proper diet.

Tuberculosis was a common cause of death in young adults. Illnesses were frequent and life was short. In 1900 most people in central Scotland were smaller than their grandparents.

Scotland was fortunate in that the best of modern medicine and surgery was available free in the infirmaries founded and financed by the voluntary efforts of their local communities. But these infirmaries were only for emergencies and serious illness.

Medical treatment more generally available had changed little for generations and was largely ineffective, offering no cures at the acute stages of disease and failing to protect patients from the chronic disabilities that so often persisted



■ **Mark of poverty:** disfigurement by rickets was once all too obvious on the streets of Glasgow.

after the crisis. Most regrettable of all, what comfort that medical science could offer to the sick at home was available only to those who could afford it.

By the end of the 19th century the health of the nation had been transformed. Maternal death, rare and infant mortality were no longer a cause of public concern. Children did not die of acute infectious disease. The average expectation of life had increased by more than 20 years and many lived long into old age. That children were inches taller than their parents had become a commonplace.

These improvements had been brought about largely by improvement in living conditions and, above all, by the elimination of the abject poverty that still afflicted Scotland in the 1930s. Medical science had helped and Scots and Scottish institutions had made important contributions.

The deficiencies of the diet of Scotland's working class had been

first assessed in 1901 by Elsie Inglis and her colleagues in Edinburgh. In the 1930s John Boyd Orr showed these deficiencies were principally due to poverty rather than ignorance and that the health and growth of children could be greatly improved.

The discovery of the place of vitamin D in treatment of rickets was made in 1921.

In the second half of the century nutritional deficiency disorders virtually disappeared. Diabetes was no longer inevitably fatal following the discovery of insulin by John Macleod and his research assistant, Frederick Banting, working in Toronto. Macleod, an Aberdeen graduate, was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1923, returning to continue his work at Aberdeen University.

A revolution in medical practice began in 1935 when acute infections were cured for the first time. It was discovered that sulphadiazine, already well known to industrial

chemists, could not only kill bacteria in the laboratory but could be given safely to patients.

Improved versions, the sulphonamides were soon being used successfully to treat puerperal fever, pneumonia and meningitis. Earlier, in 1928 the Scottish bacteriologist, Alexander Fleming, had discovered penicillin; by 1940 it had been developed as the first 'miracle' antibiotic, effective against a greater range of infections than the sulphonamides and without unpleasant side effects.

Other effective antibiotics followed. Streptomycin was first used to treat tuberculosis in Britain at a Glasgow Hospital in 1948 and by 1954 a fully-effective strategy for the treatment of tuberculosis had been developed in Edinburgh. By the end of the century it had become possible to cure virtually every infectious disease.

This seeming miracle, the complete cure of infections, changed forever what was expected of

battle against disease

doctors. The public no longer came only for relief of symptoms but for support during the illness. The public expected to be cured, not just to have the involvement of the pharmaceutical industry and the cases expectations.

As medical science advanced, the organs that became damaged or diseased. A transplant in Britain was carried out in Edinburgh in 1954. The century advances in genetics seemed to promise that disease might be prevented.

While Scotland contributed to the advance of medical science, the greatest achievement of the century was that science could be applied to the whole population. As intervention in health care increased in the 20th century, the Scottish nationalism ensured that the administration of health services was devolved to Scotland.

In 1913 the state medical service was established in the Highlands and Islands. After the First World War, the Ministry of Health was created to administer health services in England and Wales, a Secretary of Health, answerable to the Secretary for Scotland, was created to develop services in Scotland. In a series of bills, the Health Act and its successor, the Department of Health for Scotland, paved the way for the creation of a comprehensive state medical service for the whole country.

Early in the Second World War an Emergency Hospital Service built new hospitals to cope with the expected vast numbers of casualties. When the expected numbers did not materialise, Secretary of State Tom Johnston devoted these new government hospitals to civilian use. By 1945 the state was the chief provider of hospitals in Scotland.

The creation of a National Health Service was already well on the way in Scotland when Aneurin Bevan was appointed to resolve the persisting problems in planning for England and Wales. Established by a separate Act, the National Health Service got off to a flying start in Scotland in 1948. ●



■ Best hats everywhere as mothers and children line up at the outpatients' department at Forfar in 1914.

A killer tamed

The living and working conditions of the Industrial Revolution promoted tuberculosis (consumption), a disease that had been a killer for centuries, into a killer epidemic attacking all classes, but especially the poor.

In 1862 the disease was shown to be a bacterial infection and it became fashionable to send the more affluent sufferers to sanatoriums in the mountains of Switzerland for rest and continuous exposure to fresh air.

The first tuberculosis dispensary for the general public was established by Sir Robert Philip in Edinburgh in 1887. He took the family as the unit for treatment. Contacts were traced and those found to be suffering were offered a period of sanatorium treatment and recuperation in a farm house.

Effective cure only became possible with the discovery of streptomycin (in 1943) and the later drugs, para-aminosalicylic acid and isoniazid. These drugs were effective, but if used separately the infecting organisms soon became resistant.

From 1954 Sir John Crofton and his team in Edinburgh showed that, used together, these drugs were effective. In 1958, however, the

infectious disease was cleared from the city.

For a time the scientific community did not believe such results were possible, but within a few years the value of the Crofton strategy had been recognised and it should have been possible to relegate tuberculosis to the dustbin of medical history.

However, complacency, ignorance, incompetence and poverty have prevented the strategy from being followed world-wide and inadequate treatment has caused more than no treatment.

In the Third World, health resources have been inadequate for the full antibiotic treatment of tuberculosis and drug resistant organisms have flourished. In vast numbers of the population the epidemic of HIV has destroyed the body cells which form the main protection from infection.

The emerging drug-resistant tuberculosis and HIV cannot be confined to the Third World, and therefore the battle by the medical profession to improve the health of the people continues to be a major challenge into the 21st century.

Living history at the

■ Dash for glory: very young ladies sprint to the tape at the North British Locomotive Company's sports day at Hogarth Park, Glasgow, in 1954.



The desire for more Scottish history is insatiable. And that's a fact. Mix it with the latest in technology, the internet and a vast photographic and information resource and the package is unbeatable

Interest in Scottish history and culture is now quite rightly at an all time high. The fact that you are holding this magazine is testament to the undeniable fact that we are hungry to know more about our nation and how it evolved. This knowledge helps us explain where we are today and points to where our future lies.

It was therefore in the best traditions of Scottish innovation that the Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network (SCRAN) was formed.

SCRAN has three main founding partners, The National Museums of Scotland (NMS), the Scottish Museums Council (SMC) and the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments (RCAHMS). Working with the Millennium

Project, SCRAN adds up to a £15 million investment to digitise Scottish human history and material culture for education and life long learning.

They invested around £15 million in 1996 to help digitise and preserve Scottish human history and material culture for education and life long learning.

Having laid down a framework, SCRAN became an umbrella organisation in its own right, grant aiding suitable projects for inclusion in a national resource.

Through a concept of cherry picking, the best and most unique collections in Scotland's historic buildings, museums, galleries, libraries and archives are now widely accessible online from anywhere in Scotland or the world. There are a

few targets still to reach but it is now a massive online resource, for schools, colleges, universities and individual web users.

In terms of size, SCRAN has funded over 400 projects, which adds up to around 400,000 records now available online.

In excess of one million records will be available by August, 2001.

Users can freely search and view thumbnail sized images of important objects, landscapes, people, places, flat art, portraits, historic sites and buildings at www.scran.ac.uk.

Access to date has been restricted to Scottish schools, academic institutions and libraries.

This model is now the basis for a friendly invasion down south with licence deals being finalised for colleges and universities, throughout

click of your finger



■ Secrets of the past: cup-and-ring stone markings in Kilmartin.

the UK and schools in England and Wales.

Individuals seeking more material for their own enjoyment and private study can pay a small annual subscription providing access to larger images, QuickTime movies, sound clips and virtual reality.

It is an opportunity to learn more about your own history and culture in a safe non-commercial learning environment on the Internet.

Children use the resource in support with their homework and parents can play an active role in encouraging their study.

Students have a powerful reference tool for essays and tutorials, while teachers and lecturers can prepare their own lessons in advance or use the resource as a primary reference tool.

Every subscription is extremely important, providing real worth in that income helps digitise and preserve more new projects on an ongoing basis.

Money is also set aside to create innovative multi-media resources as part of an ongoing programme of improving and providing education for everyone.

The breadth of resources is truly impressive with a wealth of assets to choose from depending on your own particular interest. From Scotland's

mysterious ancient stones, to how we spent our holidays at the seaside 150 years ago.

Enjoy stunning 360-degree panoramas or hear Scottish writers reading their own works.

View over 250 biographies on prominent Scots and those who have shaped the nation. Learn more about our lost mining heritage or the origins of Scottish kingship.

There are some unique materials which are rarely seen because they are in rotating collections, or because they are too fragile to handle.

An online presence allows for appreciation without deterioration, though hopefully it will never replace visiting these historic assets in person.

Incidentally, the idea of culture does not imply elitism. SCRAN includes a wealth of material on the arts, entertainment and sport, our popular culture. A picture of Elvis on his only UK stopover is on the way, but you can already see the likes of Laurel and Hardy in their 1950's music hall tour days.

A Scottish football project will include memorabilia and teams from a time where foreign players were a novelty.

Aside from the web resource over 70 CD-ROM titles have been



■ Bonnie Prince: 12-year old Charles Edward Stuart painted in Rome.

commissioned. The first catalogue containing 11 fully-interactive titles has already been released with number two due in September. Some of these have already been nominated or won awards for their quality.

One of the best sellers includes virtual tours of some of the remarkable architecture of Glasgow buildings, from Mackintosh House to the Rogano Bar.

In other titles you can master the steps for Scottish country dancing or explore the historic traditions of life

in the North-East of Scotland; and Scotland's great and good are not forgotten with titles covering the world renowned genius of John Logie Baird and Alexander 'Greek' Thomson.

If you have yet to embrace the new technology, SCRAN is an excellent starting point for anyone with an interest in Scottish history and material culture.

If you are already a web veteran you can do a lot worse than bookmark www.scran.ac.uk. ●

Historic sites, portraits, art, people, places, sport, sound. SCRAN is for those with an interest in the past

Scotland captured on Luftwaffe film



Many of the Scottish sites observed by the German Luftwaffe during the Second World War can still be seen, discovers biker historian David Ross

Scotland had a very important role during the Second World War as a strategic stop-over for allied forces. A large number of airstrips, depots and naval bases sprouted up all over the country, from Wigton to Lossiemouth, Benbecula to Orkney.

Throughout the period 1939-45, the German Luftwaffe took aerial photographs of sites all over Scotland during their war-time intelligence-gathering missions. With a little bit of detective work, many can still be seen today.

Those whose place of work is situated on present-day industrial estates, factories or hospitals, might relieve rush-hour traffic tedium by imagining the bustle of wartime activity that may have once taken place there.

Heathhall in Dumfries is now home to an industrial estate, but during the war it was an aircraft storage facility. In Lanarkshire, Carlisle's Law Hospital was a military barracks. It was converted into a hospital after 1945 and continues with little change to its original form today.

Scotland's coastline has inherited a vast legacy of relics from both the First and Second World Wars. Many present-day civilian airports and harbours have stories to tell. It is not hard to imagine, looking from the window of a plane or observation deck of a ferry today, the passing motion of an RAF Hurricane or a Royal Navy destroyer all those years ago.

At Longannet, near the Kincardine Bridge, 40 of the ammunition bunkers observed by Luftwaffe photographers in 1939 are still standing. The others were destroyed when the Longannet Power Station was built.

Montrose airfield in Angus has relics which actually go back to the First World War. Montrose is the oldest military airfield in Scotland, dating from 1912. It was home to No 2 Flying Instructors' School during the Second World War. A block of First World War aircraft

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Inverness (See)

Seeflughafen

Länge (seel. Geviert): 4° 15' 30" Nord. Breite: 57° 29' 30" Ost

Deutliche über NN

Lf. Kdo. 3 Januar 1943

Karte 1:100000

GB/5 13

Maßstab: 1:25000



■ High altitude view of Inverness taken by the Luftwaffe during the Second World War. Though classed as a seaplane base, flying boat operations were never developed at the Longman airfield. It is now an industrial estate.

sheds can be seen at the south-west corner of the airfield.

Those passing through Aberdeen International Airport might be interested to know that it was once home to RAF Dyce, occupied by Hurricanes of No 145 Squadron. A civil airport was first established there in 1934.

Moving up the coast, the Northern and Western Isles were of great strategic significance. They stand at the gateway for traffic travelling between the North Atlantic, Arctic and the all-important Baltic. Easily accessible by ferry and plane today, the islands' war-time heritage provides a modern relief to earlier Gaelic and Norse heritage.

The Sullom Voe Oil terminal in Shetland is famous now for its

prominence in Scotland's North Sea Oil industry, but during the War the area was home to the Sullom Voe seaplane base, established to allow flying boats to patrol the seas from Norway to Iceland, upon which allied ships made precarious journeys above the watchful eye of the German U-boat commanders.

The airfield on the small Outer Hebridean island of Benbecula was originally a civilian airport, but was developed during the War under the auspices of Coastal Command for anti-submarine patrols in the North Atlantic.

The military connection is still very much in evidence today, as the airport now serves the Rocket Range on the neighbouring island of South Uist. ●

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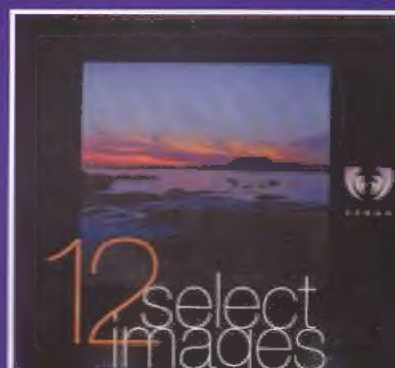
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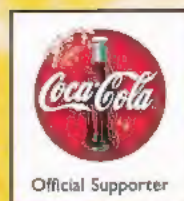
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